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paper press from giving sound opinions on any political mat-

ters.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

ODH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 26th May, 1877.

(POLITICAL.)

GENERAL.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Anwar-ul-Akhbar* of the 20th May draws the attention of the Government to the pitiable and miserable condition of the surviving members of the Timur family, and thinks them entitled to the favours and kindness of the Government.

Circulation,
100 copies.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 24th May says that the secret meeting held by the Emperors of Russia, Germany, and Austria, some years ago, foreboded evil. We surmised this in our columns three years ago, and distinctly warned the British Government to be upon the alert in time, else the three allied powers would divide the Ottoman empire among themselves, just as they had shared in the partition of Poland and contributed towards the ruin of France. We have been all along impressing upon the Government the need of increasing the numerical strength of the army, but

Circulation,
58 copies.

all in vain. The Foreign Department of the Government of India has now adopted a policy of mysterious secrecy, and ~~thus the want of~~ accurate information prevents the newspaper press from giving sound opinions on any political matters.

It is now too late to concern ourselves with the affairs of Bosnia, Hurzegovina, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Servia. Their fate is sealed. They may be dismissed from our thought as having already fallen into the hands of Russia, Germany, and Austria. The question that should now properly engage our attention is which power should occupy Constantinople and take possession of the Black Sea in case that the war results in the defeat of the Turks. We should take this question into our consideration betimes, and our future policy should be framed according to the solution we arrive at. If it be thought advisable to let Russia, Germany, and Austria seize Constantinople and the Black Sea, India also should be made over to Russia along with them, and timely preparations should be made by the Government of India to evacuate the country. The Russians, Afghans, and natives will then have to decide it among themselves as to what nation will rule in India. We assure the Government that, if our relations with Cabul are not soon placed on a satisfactory footing, we would ere long be reduced to great straits. As soon as Russia has defeated the Porte, she will turn her attention towards Central Asia, while Prussia and Austria will excite some quarrel in Europe which will keep England fully engaged and compel her to leave India to shift for herself. It is to be regretted that the English Government doubts the loyalty of the natives, and accordingly does not admit them to a share in the administration of the country, nor augments its military strength by increasing the number of its native troops. An efficient army of native troops, four lakhs strong, may be maintained at an annual cost of six crores of rupees, which will be able to cope with any enemy. If the Government cannot afford to forget the unfortunate events

of 1857, it should also bear in mind the rebellion of the Irish Fenians. In fact it behoves the Government to adopt a conciliating policy towards natives. The late Sir Jang Bahadur of Nipal could disarm the animosity of his enemies and convert them into friends by conferring suitable honours and offices upon them. Even if the Government succeeds in subjugating and annexing Afghanistan and extending the north-west frontier to the borders of Russian conquests in Central Asia, it should not fail to increase its military strength. The close proximity of the territories of two civilised governments is not always productive of peace. France and Prussia furnish a fair illustration of the truth of our remarks. Our Government should also see that no foreign power contrives to establish its influence in Egypt.

NATIVE STATES.

A correspondent of the *Lytton Gazette* of the 22nd May says that the Maharaja of Nabha has lately received a letter from the Panjab Government, requesting him to contribute, like other chiefs, a portion of six crores of rupees needed by the Government to meet the expenditure involved by famine relief works and the construction of canals, roads, &c. But as, notwithstanding the increased revenues of the State, the State coffers are totally empty, the Maharaja has set himself in good earnest to reduce the pay of all servants of the State, which has been a source of great distress to them. Moreover their pay is in arrears for the last eight or nine months.

Circulation,
200 copies.

TURKEY AND THE MUSSALMANS OF INDIA.

The *Sholah-i-Tur* of the 22nd May says that the acts of the Russians are quite inconsistent with their words. They profess to have no other object in view than to rescue the Christian subjects of the Porte from the oppressions of the Turks. But it is apparent from their designs that a desire of territorial aggrandisement is the sole cause of their undertaking the war against Turkey. There has lately been a Christian insurrection in the Russian province of Terek. Charity begins

Circulation,
310 copies.

at home. If the Czar is really the champion of Christians, he should have first of all ameliorated the condition of his own subjects. Why did he oppress his subjects of Terek so that they have been compelled to rebel? Are they not Christians? Are they not entitled to mercy? Is it only the Christians of Bulgaria who are the worthy objects of compassion and sympathy at the hands of the Czar? If the Czar, as a true Christian, sympathises with them, then, as a true Christian, he is also bound to act upon the dictates of Christ. Christ teaches his followers not to avenge an injury. Then why does the Czar, as a true Christian, not observe the ordinances of his religion, and why does he unnecessarily shed the blood of thousands of human beings?

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation,
325 copies.

The *Panjabi Akhbar* of the 19th May, in its columns of miscellaneous occurrences, has an article headed "The English blow and the native spleen." It runs as follows: Mr. Stoelkie, whose strong blow put an end to the existence of a native, has been fined seven hundred and fifty rupees by the court, which will be paid to the relatives of the deceased by monthly instalments of eight rupees. It was found by medical evidence that the spleen of the deceased was diseased. Now it has been pretty well established by experience that most of the natives have diseased spleens. It would, therefore, be a matter of great convenience to Europeans, who are well trained in the art of striking blows, were a general rate of compensation fixed for the loss of life of a native.

Circulation,
212 copies.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 19th May, referring to a previous article on the institution of honorary magistrates, (*vide* the *Selections* for the week ending the 7th April, 1877, pages 240 and 241,) argues that honorary benches as at present constituted, far from doing any good to the people, are a positive evil. It was expected that honorary magistrates possessing a more intimate knowledge of the customs, manners, and character of the people will be better able to

administer justice, and will also relieve the courts of a pressure of work. But the principle on which they are at present nominated by the Government has defeated these objects. None but educated, honest, and conscientious men should be appointed honorary magistrates; and to ensure this either the Government should fix an examination for them, or their election should lie with the people.

The same paper in an article contributed by a correspondent, says that frequent complaints that reach the Government against the illegal proceedings of the police have probably convinced the Government by this time that the police department far from serving any useful purpose is oppressing the people. To remedy this evil the first thing that the Government should do is the exclusion of men of low birth from the department. The department should be at once weeded, without any hesitation, of such people. These men pay no heed to the dignity of the respectable classes. They are utterly callous as to lying or any act of dishonesty. They oppress the poor and helpless without mercy. They are in the habit of receiving monthly subsidies from *badmashes*. How can it be possibly thought that men of this sort can faithfully discharge their responsible duties? They have brought the department into a general odium with the people, so much so that no honest and respectable man likes to serve in the police. The scale of pay for constables should be slightly increased with a view to attract high caste men to the department. But in towns the old *chaukidari* system should be restored. It is a fact that thieves ply their trade in towns in concert with the police.

The *Safir-i-Hindustan* of the 19th May, in its columns of miscellaneous news, says that the municipal committee of Multan is ambitious rather of exhibiting authority over the people than of promoting their convenience and comfort.

A correspondent of the same paper complains of the severities practised upon the people of Amritsar in the collection

Circulation
220 copies.

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220 copies.

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220 copies.

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220 copies.

of octroi duties. The rates of octroi duties are very heavy, and Lala Paras Ram, the tahsildar of *chungi*, is in the habit of using harsh and abusive language. His appointment is really a sinecure one. He gets two hundred rupees a month, and still importunes the municipal committee for rewards.

Circulation,
450 copies.

The *Rahbur-i-Hind* of the 22nd May, in its correspondence columns, says that the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa has issued an order that the paper manufactured at Sialkot should be used (in Government offices), but at the same time he has ordered that every one who has occasion to use or sell that paper must buy it from Jawahir Mall, the ahlmada, who necessarily sells it at two or three times its market price. He has also commenced affixing a sort of seal to the paper so that the people regard it in the light of stamp-paper. The writer holds this practice to be illegal and as one involving loss to the people, and, therefore, suggests that the Deputy Commissioner should withdraw the restriction that all paper must be purchased from Jawahir Mall.

Circulation,
247 copies.

The *Patiala Akhbar* of the 21st May, referring to circular No. R of April, 1877, of the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, and Chief Commissioner for Oudh, regarding the improvement of the growth of wheat and the encouragement of the Indian wheat trade with England, is glad to remark that one more article of Indian product has been added to the list of staple articles exported from this country. The development of the wheat trade may turn out of great benefit to India.

Circulation,
120 copies.

The *Anjuman-i-Hind* of the 19th May strongly protests against encouraging the Indian wheat trade, on the ground that the exportation of wheat on any large scale will inevitably lead to a considerable enhancement of prices in the country.

Circulation,
210 copies.

A correspondent of the *Rohilkhand Akhbar* of the 19th May complains of the prevalence of the crime of infanticide

in mauza Nenkhara, pergunah Rampur, zila Saharanpur, which is inhabited by an Gujar tribe. (In corroboration of his statement the writer mentions some recent instances in which girls were allowed to live for few days after their birth, and were then cruelly disposed of, and the chaukidars were bribed to report that the children had been born dead. It is added that the mauza was on the list of suspected villages about five years ago but was removed from the list through the false reports of the landlord and of the police.

The same correspondent also complains of the extortions practised by the amla of the Deoband tahsil (Saharanpur) on the people. The tahsildar himself is no better than the amla. He never listens to any complaints brought against the latter.

A correspondent of the same paper states that Kunwar Lachman Singh, Deputy Collector, Bulandshahr, went to Hardwar at the last Hardwar fair without taking leave of absence. One day after bathing in the Ganges he began to walk leisurely up and down the place where the police inspectors in charge of the fair were engaged in the performance of their duties. Nawab Ali Ahmad Khan, one of the police inspectors, asked him to go away, as his walking obstructed the police in the discharge of their duties. But as he would not obey, the inspector struck him on the head with a stick.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 23rd May, learning from the *Vakili-Hindustan* that Lord Lytton is contemplating an improvement in the relations existing between the Government and the native press, makes certain suggestions for the favourable consideration of His Lordship. (1) Some of the noted newspapers, whether published in vernacular or English, should be supplied with official news. (2) All Government officers engaged in the administration of the country should be supplied with copies of some of the vernacular newspapers at the Government expense, and should be asked

Circulation,
210 copies.

Circulation,
700 copies.

to pay due consideration to questions of public interest discussed in them. (3) Copies of vernacular newspapers should be taken by the Government also for the perusal of the English Ministry and Parliament. A committee should be established in England to translate vernacular newspapers into English, so that Englishman may become acquainted with the actual condition of India. (4) Instead of a reporter on the vernacular press, a committee should be appointed to translate vernacular newspapers into English. It should consist of the best English educated natives, as Munshi Zaka-ul-lah, Mr. Mahmud, Maulvi Nasir Ahmad, &c. (5) Questions such as the encouragement of the Ionian system of medicine, the establishment of schools of industry and art, the appointment of respectable natives to high offices, discussed by the vernacular press, should receive due weight and consideration at the hands of the Government. (6) Full liberty should be granted to the native press. (7) Newspapers should be forwarded free of postage charges.

Circulation,
300 copies.

A correspondent of the *Kavi Vachan Sudha* of the 21st May draws the attention of the Government to an evil practice that prevails among the Brahmans of the Kanya Kubja sect. A Brahman of this sect cannot get his daughter married unless he agrees before-hand to pay the parents of the bridegroom a suitable sum of money. Thus girls, whose parents are poor, remain long unmarried, sometimes to old age. Their life is really miserable and pitiable. This sort of marriage in which money is extorted by one party from the other is also condemned by the Hindu shastras. It does not differ much from slave trade, and, therefore, deserves to be suppressed by the Government.

A correspondent of the same paper, referring to the North-Western Provinces License Tax Act, says that in commemoration of Sir William Muir's administration of these provinces, several schools have been established, and statues erected by the people. But as no memorial has been erected

by the people to commemorate the connection of Sir John Strachey with the North Western Provinces, he has thought fit to supply the want himself. He has left a memorial in the form of the North Western Provinces License Tax Act. He is entitled to the thanks of the people, and his name will never be forgotten in these provinces.

EDUCATION.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 24th May, says that the abolition of the Delhi college by the Panjab Government is, indeed, a very sad event. The abolition of the college teaches two useful lessons; first, that no faith can be placed in the permanence of any Government institution. The Delhi college was of fifty years standing, and turned out many able and well educated men during that period. There is now only one literary institution, i.e., the Lahore university college to give higher education in the Panjab. The permanence of this university even cannot be relied upon. It has been established at the earnest request of the respectable natives who have paid contributions for its support. Secondly, the establishment of the Lahore university induced the Government to relieve itself of the burden of the maintenance of the Delhi college. If the people will endeavour to help themselves in any matter, the Government will readily withdraw its support. Thus any attempt of the people at self-help instead of improving matters will make them worse.

Circulation,
58 copies.

FAMINE.

The *Malwa Akhbār* of the 16th and 23rd May publishes some of the speeches delivered at the meeting lately held by the citizens of Indore at the school building on the 3rd May last, for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the relief of the famine sufferers. One of the speakers after expressing regret for the poverty which has now overtaken India which was once so remarkable for her riches, and after describing some of the painful scenes which have occurred in the famine

districts, in order to give his audience an idea of the miseries of the sufferers, observes that it is the paramount duty of a king to save his people from the destructive effects of a calamity. The facilities of communication afforded by railway and telegraph make it much more easy for the English Government to relieve the people in time of distress. The old kings were at a great disadvantage in this respect. Leaving any other relief out of the question, the rates of wages—five pice, four pice, and three pice a day—paid by the Government to the relief labourers, who have to work hard from morning to evening, are inadequate for their support, and it is evident that no one who gets an insufficient quantity of food can long bear up under hard labour. The English Government is in fact acting the part of a juggler in the country. It is bent on the acquisition of riches, and accordingly its main object consists in wheedling the people out of their money by all manner of tricks which its ingenuity can devise. Thus we ourselves must do what we can for the sufferers. Were we animated by a feeling of unity, we would care nothing for the king, we could place any one on the throne we pleased. Within the last few months two kings have been dethroned in Turkey by the people. The speaker then referring to the advantages of unity, exhorts the audience to render relief to their distressed countrymen in the Deccan.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulation,
500 copies.

The *Safir-i-Budhana* of the 16th May states that a number of badmashes have formed an evil combination among themselves for the purpose of earning their livelihood by illegal means. The society frequently holds its meetings secretly at night. To avoid detection the members do not always assemble at the same place; and the date of their meeting is also unfixed. Their object is to establish their influence over the officers of the pargana by bringing false charges against them before their superiors, and to foster theft, robbery, forgery, &c.

The *Akhyar-ul-Akhhár* of the 18th May showers praises on the Government for the establishment of charity houses in the various parts of the country. The paupers belonging to the lower classes have availed themselves of the bounty of the Government more than those belonging to the higher classes. Efforts should be made by the Government to find out, and grant relief to, men of the respectable classes who are starving for want of food and have no means of sustenance.

Circulation,
137 copies.

A correspondent of the *Safir-i-Hindustan* of the 19th May feelingly laments over the decay of Indian trade and industry, and calls upon the native chiefs and *millionaires* to encourage trade, manufactures, and industrial arts.

Circulation,
220 copies.

The *Tahzib-ul-Ikhlaq* of the 15th May announces the formation of an Association at Aligarh for encouraging promising native youths to visit Europe. The Association will grant pecuniary aid to natives desirous of visiting Europe for educational and scientific purposes. Sayad Ahmad Khan, Bahadur, C.S.I., the secretary to the Association, has published an article appealing to native chiefs and nobility as well as English gentlemen resident in India to further the scheme by contributing suitable donations and subscriptions. Those who will pay an annual subscription of Rs. 24 will be enrolled as members of the Association.

Circulation,
295 copies.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	DATE.	CIRCULATION.
1	Agra Akhbār ...	Agra	Urdū	Weekly ...	May 16th, 1877.	327 copies (including 50 copies taken by Government).
2	Akhhār-i-'Alam ...	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto ...	19th "	80 copies.
3	Akhhār-i-'Am ...	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto ...	23rd "	945 copies (including 336 copies taken by Govt.).
4	Akhyar-ul-Akhhār ...	Lucknow	Ditto	Tri-monthly	18th "	137 copies
5	Akmal-ul-Akhhār ...	Delhi	Ditto	Weekly ...	20th "	120 "
6	Aligarh Institute Gazette	Aligarh	Urdū-English	Ditto ...	18th "	343 copies (including 94 copies taken by Govt.).
7	Anwar-ul-Akhhār	Lucknow	Urdū	Bi-monthly,	20th "	100 copies.
8	Anjuman-i-Hind ...	Ditto	Ditto	Weekly ...	19th "	130 "
9	Anjuman-i-Panjāb	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto ...	18th "	410 copies (including 250 copies taken by Government).
10	Ashraf-ul-Akhhār ...	Delhi	Ditto	Tri-monthly	21st "	105 copies.
11	Benares Akhhār	Benares	Hindī	Weekly ...	24th "	58 "
12	Dabdaba-i-Sikandari	Rampur	Urdū	Ditto ...	21st "	353 "
13	Gwalior Gazette ...	Gwalior	Hindī-Urdū	Ditto ...	20th "	

14	Jaipur Akhbār (Rājputana)	...	Jaipur	...	Urdū	...	Weekly	...	May 18th, 1877.	125	"
15	Jatwa-i-Tūr	...	Meerut	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 24th	142	"
16	Kárnámah	...	Lucknow	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 21st	300	"
17	Kaukab-i-Hind	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	Bi-monthly	...	" 23rd	260	"
18	Kavi Vachan Sulha	...	Benares	...	Hindī	...	Weekly	...	" 21st	300	"
19	Khair Khwāh-i-Alam	...	Delhi	...	Urdū	...	Ditto	...	" 22nd	160	"
20	Koh-i-Nār	...	Lahore	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 19th	495	copies (including 30 copies taken by Government).
21	Lauh-i-Mahfuz	...	Moradabad	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 18th	85	copies.
22	Lawrence Gazette	...	Meerut	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 22nd	500	copies (including 50 copies taken by Govt.).
23	Lytton Gazette	...	Delhi	...	Ditto	...	Bi-monthly	...	" March, 1877.	200	copies.
24	Makhzan-ul-Ulam	...	Bareilly	...	Ditto	...	Monthly	...	" March, 1877.	225	copies (including 200 copies taken by Govt.).
25	Málwā Akhbār	...	Indore	...	Mahrathi	...	Weekly	...	May 16th, 1877.	80	copies.
26	Mangal Samachar	...	Beswan	...	Hindī-Urdū	...	Monthly	...	February 1st & 1st March, 1877.	400	"
27	Meerut Gazette	...	Meerut	...	Urdū	...	Weekly	...	May 21st, 1877.	100	"
28	Mihir-i-Darakhshan	...	Delhi	...	Ditto	...	Tri-monthly	...	" 20th	245	"
29	Musid-i-Am	...	Agra	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 19th	50	"
30	Muhib-t-Hind	...	Meerut	...	Ditto	...	Weekly	...	" 22nd	407	"
31	Mutlá-i-Núr	...	Cawnpore	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 8th	200	"
32	Nasim Jaunpur	...	Jaunpur	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 24th	380	"
33	Núr-i-Afshan	...	Ludhiana	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	" 19th	100	"
34	Núr-ul-Afaq	...	Cawnpore	...	Ditto	...	Bi-monthly	...	" 21st		"
35	Núr-ul-Anwar	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	Weekly	...	" 21st		"
36	Nusrat-ul-Akbār	...	Delhi	...	Ditto	...	Tri-monthly	...	" 21st		"

List of papers examined—(concluded).

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	DATE.	CIRCULATION.
37	<i>Nusrat-ul-Islam</i> ...	Delhi	Urdú	Tri-monthly,	May 21st, 1877.	70 copies.
38	<i>Oudh Akhbár</i> ...	Lucknow	Ditto	Tri-weekly...	May 20th, 23rd & 25th, 1877.	700 copies (in- cluding 50 copies taken by Govern- ment).
39	<i>Oudh Punch</i> ...	Ditto	Ditto	Weekly	" 22nd	230 "
40	<i>Panjáb-i-Akhhár</i> ...	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	" 19th	325 "
41	<i>Patiala Akhhár</i> ...	Patiala	Ditto	Ditto	" 21st	247 "
42	<i>Prince of Wales' Gazette</i>	Meerut	Hindí-Urdú-Eng- lish.	Ditto	" 20th	"
43	<i>Qaisar-ul-Akhhár</i>	Allahabad	Urdú	Ditto	19th	100 "
44	<i>Rahbar-i-Hind</i> ...	Lahore	Ditto	Bi-weekly	" 19th & 22nd	450 "
45	<i>Rohilkhand Akhhár</i>	Moradabad	Ditto	Weekly	" 19th	210 copies (in- cluding 50 copies taken by Govern- ment).
46	<i>Sádiq-ul-Akhhár</i> ...	Bhawalpur	Ditto	Ditto	21st	699 copies.
47	<i>Safir-i-Bodhāna</i> ...	Muzaffarnagar	Ditto	Ditto	" 16th	500 "
48	<i>Safir-i-Hindustān</i>	Amritsar	Ditto	Ditto	" 19th	220 "
49	<i>Shafah-ul-Sudur</i> ...	Lahore	Arabic	Monthly	Decr. 1876 to April, 1877.	100 copies (in- cluding 20 copies taken by Govt.),
50	<i>Saiyad-ul-Akhhár</i> ...	Delhi	Hindí-Urdú	Tri-monthly,	May 20th, 1877.	86 copies.

51	<i>Shola-i-Tūr</i>	...	...	...	Urdú	...	Weekly	...	22nd	...	310 copies.
52	<i>Taj-ul-Akhbar</i>	...	...	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	17th	...	70
53	<i>Tohfah-i-Káshmir</i>	...	...	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	19th	...	250 copies (including 200 copies taken by Maharaja of Káshmir).
54	<i>Umdat-ul-Akhbār</i>	...	...	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	16th	...	150 copies.
55	<i>Urdú Akhbār</i>	...	...	...	Mahrathi	...	Ditto	...	19th	...	130
56	<i>Urdú Akhbār (Akola)</i>	...	...	...	Urdú	...	Ditto	...	"	...	190
57	<i>Vakil-i-Hindustán</i>	...	...	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	"	...	212
58	<i>Vrit Dhárá</i>	...	...	...	Mahrathi	...	Ditto	...	21st	...	175

PRIMA DAS,
Off. Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

